

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 4 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 2 are canceled solely to expedite prosecution of the application, and not for reasons related to patentability. The Applicants understand that non-elected, canceled Claims 5-8 may be pursued separately in a divisional application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected as being unpatentable over Iwata (JP 09-254,239A), but claims 3 and 4 were found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of Claim 1. Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 2 and have rewritten claims 3 and 4 to be in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Hence, the claims are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, the Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that the Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

CONCLUSION

In view of Applicants' amendments to the Claims and the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.


Application No.: 10/792,144
Filing Date: March 3, 2004

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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